

Appl. No. : 10/041,829
Filed : January 7, 2002

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the Claims as follows. Insertions are shown underlined while deletions are ~~struck through~~.

1 (original): An optical diffusing plate comprising a birefringent film and a minute domain with a birefringent characteristic different from the birefringent film in a dispersed state in the birefringent film, wherein the birefringent film comprises a birefringent stretched film, and the minute domain comprises a positive uniaxial liquid crystal polymer, further wherein a length of the minute domain in a direction of stretching axis is longer than a length in a direction orthogonal to the stretching axis, and the liquid crystal polymer is aligned perpendicularly to a stretching axis of the birefringent stretched film.

2 (withdrawn)

3 (original): The optical diffusing plate according to Claim 1, wherein the minute domain is distributed in a dispersed state caused by phase separation, and a length in the direction of stretching axis of the minute domain is 0.05 to 500 μm .

4 (original): An optical diffusing plate comprising two or more of the optical diffusing plates according to Claim 1 being laminated so that a direction in stretching axis of an upper and a lower layer may have a mutually parallel relationship.

5 (original): An optical element comprising a laminated layer of at least one kind selecting from a polarizing plate and a retardation plate, and the optical diffusing plate according to Claim 1.

6 (currently amended): A liquid crystal display comprising the optical diffusing plate according to Claim 1 ~~or the optical element according to Claim 5~~ on one side or both sides of a liquid crystal cells.

7 (withdrawn)

8 (withdrawn)

9 (withdrawn)

10 (previously added): The optical diffusing plate according to Claim 3, wherein the length in the direction of stretching axis of the minute domain is from 1 to 100 μm .

11 (new): A liquid crystal display comprising the optical element according to Claim 5 on one side or both sides of a liquid crystal cells.